GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2568
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
REGULATING CABLE PRICES
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the orders issued by TRAI for regulating cable prices as per December 2003 schedule;

(b) whether the order still in force;

(c) if not, the changes made therein and the present norms therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the cable operators had raised the cable prices to the extent of forty/fifty per cent;

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the effective measures taken to streamline the working of cable operators and curb their monopoly and pressurising tendencies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the following tariff orders during 2004:

S.No.	Details of orders	Date of issue
1.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Tariff Order, 2004	15.1.2004
2.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Tariff {First Amendment] Order 2004	10.3.2004
3.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services {Second] Tariff Order 2004	1.10.2004
4.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services [Second] Tariff {First Amendment] Order 2004	26.10.2004
5.	The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff {Second Amendment] Order 2004	1.12.2004

(b) and (c): The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services [Second] Tariff Order, 2004 dated 1st Oct. 2004 and its amendments are in force. The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Tariff Order 2004 dated 15th Jan. 2004 and its amendment was repealed by the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services [Second] Tariff Order 2004 dated 1st Oct.2004 and ceiling of the charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators, etc. are allowed to increase by 7% to offset the effect of inflation w.e.f. 1.1.2005. Specific fee can be charged for new channels. Free to Air Channels can switch over to pay channel.

(d) to (f): Complaints regarding hike in the cable charges from the consumers have been received on which appropriate action under the law is taken. However, the consumers are at liberty to move Consumers` Courts or the Telecom (Disputes and Settlement) Appellate Tribunal for redressal of their grievances/dispute resolution.